

LARRY CROUSE

Larry addresses
the House during
floor debate.



Legislative Session 2002 • Bill Summary & Analysis

Making sense of the budget...

Instead of making the tough decisions to bring government spending under control, the governor and Legislature – in the supplemental budget passed this session (SB 6387) — failed to address the state's budget crisis.

I opposed this budget for several reasons:

- This budget further leverages future revenues and uses \$1.3 billion of one-time cash to pay for ongoing expenditures.
- This budget turns a percentage of the \$4.5 billion tobacco settlement into about \$450 million in cash, then uses that money to pay for ongoing programs.

We must get control of the unchecked growth in the size and cost of state government. In tough economic times, businesses and families must choose between priorities, because they cannot afford to ignore economic realities.

We need to do better on transportation...

After a two-year battle on a transportation tax package, a plan will be sent to the voters on the November ballot. This \$7.8 billion transportation tax scheme includes the following:

- A 9-cent gas tax increase phased in over two years (5 cents in 2003 and 4 cents in 2004);
- A 1 percent increase in the sales tax on new and used cars;
- A 30 percent increase in weight fees for trucks.

While it is good that voters will get the final say on this tax decision, I voted against the bill (HB 2969) when it came to the floor of the House. My main objection is that I don't believe the state has done enough yet to show taxpayers that we are making the best use of their money in transportation.



Representative Larry Crouse

Dear friends and neighbors,

I continue to be honored to represent you and the families of our community in Olympia. Please keep the calls and letters coming – I want to hear your thoughts, advice and concerns.

This was a tough legislative session. While I was pleased to be able to pass important legislation that will benefit our area, I am also very concerned about many serious mistakes I believe were made by the Legislature.

For example, we started the session with a \$1 billion budget hole to fix. Before everything was said and done, the governor and Democrats in the Legislature passed a budget that spends \$1.4 billion more than anticipated revenue. This is very disturbing.

There is no substitute for government living within its means, but the Legislature failed to do that this session. If you want more information on what happened, check out the rest of this newsletter, or give me a call.

I want you to know that all of the calls and letters to our office are very much appreciated, and I encourage you to keep communicating with us.

Several important efficiency reforms were introduced this session, including measures to streamline permitting, increase opportunities to contract out road construction work through competitive bidding, and revise onerous wage laws that increase the cost of road construction, especially in rural areas. But no meaningful efficiencies were adopted.

In fact, the majority party adopted very small efficiency measures, but declared that they would not take effect unless tax increases were enacted.

We should be looking for ways to improve accountability and restore public trust in government. That doesn't happen when you tell taxpayers that we will only spend their money wisely if they agree to give government more.

2002 Legislative Session Report Card

Listed here is a status report on the important bills that were introduced this session. If you would like more information on any of these bills, please call my Olympia office at (360) 786-7820.

House

Senate

Crouse vote

Governor

Budget/Fiscal Policy

Amend I-601: SB 6819 authorizes the Legislature for the 2001-03 biennium to increase taxes with a simple majority vote of each house rather than a two-thirds vote of each house, as originally stipulated in I-601.

Passed

Passed

No

Signed into law

Tobacco Money: SB 6828 authorizes the state to borrow \$450 million to help fund current budget expenditures while committing more than \$1 billion of the state's share of the tobacco lawsuit settlement money to repaying the loan.

Passed

Passed

No

Signed into law

Changing State's Debt Limit: SB 6818 authorizes the State Finance Committee to issue up to \$89.7 million in state general obligation bonds to finance projects. The bill amends the statutory 7 percent debt limit, raising it by \$245 million.

Passed

Passed

No

Signed into law

Commerce & Labor

Collective Bargaining for Higher Ed Faculty: HB 2403 allows faculty at public four-year institutions of higher education to collectively bargain with the board of regents or trustees over wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment.

Passed

Passed

No

Signed into law
(Partial veto)

Collective Bargaining for Teaching Assistants: HB 2540 makes the public employees' collective bargaining law applicable to teaching assistants and research assistants at the University of Washington.

Passed

Passed

No

Signed into law

Collective Bargaining for State Employees: HB 1268 expands the scope of collective bargaining for state employees to include wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment. Removes legislative oversight of state employee salaries and benefits and gives it to the governor.

Passed

Passed

No

Signed into law
(Partial veto)

Gambling

"Big Game" Gambling: SB 6560 authorizes the state lottery commission to join the multi-state lottery known as the "The Big Game".

Passed

Passed

No

Signed into law

Gambling with Welfare: HB 2767 prohibits gambling with welfare benefits.

Passed

Passed

Yes

Signed into law

Crime/Courts

DUI Penalties: HB 2514 increases penalties for driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug.

No
action

No
action

Supports

No action

District Court Judges: SB 6596 increases the number of district court judges in Spokane County from nine to ten.

Passed

Passed

Yes

Signed into law

Juvenile Driving Felonies: HB 2741 adds a conviction of motor vehicle theft in the first degree to the offenses for which the revocation of a juvenile's license is mandatory.

Passed

No
action

Yes

No action

Tenant Eviction: HB 2830 would protect a landlord from financial loss by providing a system for immediate eviction of tenants involved in criminal activity.

No
action

No
action

Supports

No action

2002 Legislative Session Report Card (cont.)

	House	Senate	Crouse vote	Governor
Tax or Fee Increases				
Revising Use Tax Provisions: SB 6835 imposes the use tax on certain types of business transactions that are currently not taxed.	Passed	Passed	No	Signed into law
Adult Family Homes: E2HB 2458 increases licensing fees for adult family homes from \$50 to \$125 per facility, and also the processing fee for initial licensing from \$50 to \$125.	Passed	No action	No	No action
Death Tax: HB 2897 allows our state to fully conform to Congressional legislation phasing out the death tax. Failure to pass this legislation essentially creates a new state death tax.	No action	No action	Supports	No action
Revising Transportation Fees: SB 6814 increases twenty-six transportation fees. A few of the fees increased are: Title Application Fee, Driver Instruction Permit, Driver Examination Fee, Commercial Driver Instruction Permit, Motorcycle Application Fee.	Passed	Passed	No	Signed into law
Migratory Bird Stamp: SB 6353 raises the cost of a migratory bird stamp from \$6 to \$10.	Passed	Passed	No	Signed into law
Regulatory Reform				
Ergonomics Repeal: HB 2730 repeals the new ergonomics rules created by the Department of Labor & Industries. Neither the State Legislature nor Congress has approved the legitimacy of ergonomics as a safety process, yet businesses will be forced to absorb the cost of implementing these rules.	No action	No action	Supports	No action
Limits on Agency Rule-Making: HB 2740 requires agencies to cite specific statutory authority for adoption of rules after July 1, 2002.	No action	No action	Supports	No action
Public Safety				
Environmental Terrorism: HB 1938 expands the list of aggravating factors that a court may consider when imposing an exceptional sentence to include certain acts of sabotage.	Passed	Passed	Yes	Signed into law
Protecting Domestic Security Records: SB 6439 amends the Public Disclosure Act to exempt from public disclosure certain domestic security records.	Passed	Passed	Yes	Signed into law
Veterans Records: HB 2453 exempts veteran discharge papers from public records disclosure.	Passed	Passed	Yes	Signed into law
Transportation				
Seatbelt Enforcement: HB 1460 allows a motorist to be stopped or ticketed for the sole reason of not wearing a seatbelt.	Passed	Passed	No	Signed into law

Important Contact Information • District 4



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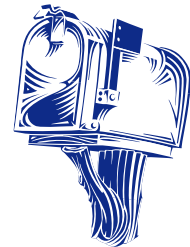
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www.leg.wa.gov/house/members/d4_1.htm

Other key government contacts:

- Toll-free Legislative Hotline for the Hearing Impaired
1-800-635-9993
- State of Washington Government Resources
www.access.wa.gov
- Directory of Local Government Resources
www.awrd.org
- The White House
www.whitehouse.gov



Toll-free Legislative Hotline: 800-562-6000

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